

For further information, please contact the Committee on Indian Affairs at 202-224-2251.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 1, 1999, in open session, to receive testimony on military operations regarding Kosovo.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 1, 1999 at 10:30 a.m. to hold a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 1, 1999 at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing on legislation to create an American Indian Education Foundation. The hearing will be held in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet for an executive business meeting, during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 1, 1999, at 10:00 a.m. in Senate Dirksen, Room 628.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 1, 1999 at 2:00 p.m. to hold a closed hearing on intelligence matters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 1, 1999 at 2:00 p.m. to hold a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT, SAFETY, AND TRAINING

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Subcommittee on Employment, Safety, and Training be au-

thorized to meet for a hearing on "The Workforce Investment Act: Job Training" during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 1, 1999, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Housing and Transportation of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 1, 1999, to conduct a hearing on "The HUD Section 8 Opt-Outs Crisis."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT, RESTRUCTURING AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Governmental Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia be permitted to meet on Thursday, July 1, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. for a hearing on Egg Safety: Are There Cracks in the Federal Food Safety System?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

DOMESTICALLY MANUFACTURED FIREARMS AND CONSUMER SAFETY

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in 1972, Congress established the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), an independent regulatory agency designed to "protect the public from unreasonable risks of injuries and deaths associated with consumer products." Since 1972, CPSC has worked to accomplish that goal by developing uniform safety standards, obtaining the recall of dangerous products, and researching, informing and educating consumers about product related hazards. CPSC has jurisdiction over thousands categories of products, from furniture to sporting equipment, appliances, clothing and toys.

Although almost all categories of consumer products are reviewed for safety, there are millions of dangerous products in the United States that go untested. These products, which are among the leading cause of death in the United States, are exempted from oversight by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. They are not subject to any quality and safety standards, nor are their manufacturers required to provide warnings to consumers about their hazards. These products are firearms, and despite the fact that they kill some 35,000 people each year, they are exempt from oversight by the federal agency that provides Americans with lifesaving information.

The fact that guns are one of the only categories of products not subject to regulation is another example of a loophole in our federal firearms law. In the 1968 Gun Control Act, Congress set quality and safety standards for imported guns, yet failed to impose such criteria on domestically manufactured weapons. As a result, many of the guns manufactured today lack even the most basic kind of safety devices.

Gun manufacturers have the ability to include basic safety mechanisms in their firearms that would substantially reduce firearm related deaths. Yet most gun manufacturers have refused to implement even the most basic technology in their products. It would surprise most Americans to know that firearms manufactured in the United States are not required to pass a "drop test," a series of tests and measurements to ensure that guns will not accidentally fire if dropped. Nor are they required to include simple features on firearms, such as load indicators which tell the user the gun is loaded. Many firearms also lack a magazine disconnect safety, a small safety improvement that costs approximately 50 cents, and could save the lives of hundreds of children who die from unintentional shootings. In addition, there are no requirements that firearms are manufactured with internal locking devices or combination locks. These are simple solutions for safety, but until guns are regulated as a consumer product, they are unlikely to be implemented by domestic manufacturers.

Manufacturers should also pursue technology to develop "smart" or "personalized" guns. Although there is no such working weapon that uses this technology now, there are plans by some manufacturers to explore the development of smart guns that recognize their owners through fingerprints, radio emissions or skin conductivity. The NRA and other gun manufacturers, such as Beretta U.S.A. Corp, are opposed to the development of smart gun technology, because they believe it would lead to mandatory safety standards. Yet, personalization concepts that allow only the authorized user access to his firearm, are sure to decrease the number of fatal unintentional injuries, homicides and suicides.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission is capable of monitoring firearms, just as they review baby cribs, hair dryers, basketballs, even toy guns, and the thousands of other products manufactured in the United States. But until Congress amends the Consumer Product Safety Act and revokes this special privilege given to firearms manufacturers, guns manufactured in the United States are unlikely to include even basic safety mechanisms.●

SUPPORTING S. 1010—THE MEDICAL INNOVATION TAX CREDIT

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today I would like to give my support to the Medical Innovation Tax Credit Act,